

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Pontardawe Town Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014, at Ynysmeudwy Hall, Old Road, Pontardawe commencing at 6.45pm**

**9745. Present** Councillors P Williams (presiding), Mrs J Bowen, D Harris, Mrs E Puzey, V Hotten, B Williams, H Evans, Ms S Northcott, A Nicholson, D B Thomas and Ms C Ford.  
Youth Representatives – Harri Evans – Mason & Thomas Hutchins

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs L Purcell, G Davies, Mrs R Phillips, H Pickrell.

**9746. Disclosure of Personal and Pecuniary interests:** Councillors Mrs J Bowen, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and V Hotten declared an interest in the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility. A Nicholson and Ms S Northcott also declared an interest to Planning and took no part in the discussion on application P2014/1090 as they are neighbours.

**Resolved** this be noted.

**9747. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014:**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014, having been read and confirmed as a true record, be accepted by Council.

**9748. Representative from Neath Port Talbot Council re HWB at Pontardawe:** Council was advised by Vicki from Neath Port Talbot Council that the HWB at Pontardawe was proving to be a success and therefore it had been agreed to extend the pilot for another year. Council was advised that the Credit Union utilised the facility Monday to Friday with NPT Homes operating on a Tuesday and Housing Benefit providing a service each Thursday. Citizens advice, Welfare Rights and Job Centre plus were also operating from the facility. Council was also advised that a virtual 'Blue Badge' scheme was due to pilot from the New Year and the Library was in the process of being refurbished. The County Borough would also welcome any suggestions for other ways to utilise the facility.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9749. Youth Representative candidates for 2015:** Harri- Evans Mason and Thomas Hutchins both provided a short presentation to Council explaining their current interests and what they thought they could bring to the post. Unfortunately the third prospective candidate did not attend the meeting.

Council agreed to bring the vote on the election of the Youth Members to the beginning of the meeting.

The Clerk stated that each Councillor could vote for two of the three candidates. The Mayor would provide a casting vote in the event of a draw.

Harri Evans- Mason obtained 9 votes (one abstention as the Council Member was a family Member) and Thomas Hutchins obtained 10 votes. (There were 10 Council Members present)

**Resolved** that Harri Evans-Mason and Thomas Hutchins be elected as Youth Representatives for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

**9750. Matters raised by members of the public:** None.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9751. Police Matters:** The Clerk provided the following information:

Pontardawe:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 11/12/14 at The Cross Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

Patrols had been scheduled to deter anti –social behavior. Patrols were also ongoing outside Languicke School to deter speeding and dangerous parking.

Trebanos:

The next PACT meeting was to be held on the 11/12/14 at Trebanos Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

Additional patrols at night had been scheduled to deter anti social behavior at the park. These were to be ongoing.

The Clerk also read a letter from Chief Inspector Joanna Williams who had replaced Chief Inspector Karl Eenmaa and previously Chief Inspector Andy Kingdom.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9752. Pontardawe & District Youth Facility:** Councillors V Hotten, A Nicholson, Ms S Northcott and Mrs J Bowen expressed an interest.

Council was advised that the Pontardawe and District Youth Facility had received no financial assistance for the 2014/15 fiscal year to date from Pontardawe Town Council and therefore there was still £10,000 from the budget available. It was also likely that a self funding group would be occupying the facility during the day from February 2015.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9753. Out of School activities brochure:** The Clerk confirmed that the brochures had been printed and would be distributed to the schools and the Clerks for GCG and Cilybebyll this week. The Clerk also confirmed that the web site and social media platforms were also available. Council thanked Harri Evans-Mason for all his work in producing the brochure and setting up the media sites.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9754. Allotment Provision:** Council was advised that Cilybebyll Community Council were still in the process of reviewing the possible provision of allotments.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will keep Council up to date with developments and will also identify if there are any grants available from the Welsh Assembly Government for an allotment provision.

**9755. Model Standing Orders:** The Clerk confirmed that the Standing Orders did now include a section on the 'Code of Conduct' for Members and the role of Public Service Ombudsman

**Resolved** that the Standing Orders be adopted.

**9756. Planning:** Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014:

**P2014/0709** Miss Rosslyn Sharp, 33 George Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4HQ.

Site Location: 33 George Street, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 4HQ.

Proposed Development: Demolition of existing garage and single storey rear extension, and construction of a two storey side extension and hard standing.

**Resolved:** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2014/0945** Mr Daniel Amott, 10 Uplands Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AH.

Site Location: 10 Uplands Road, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4AH.

Proposed Development: Two Storey side extension, portico, demolition of existing garage and construction of a new detached double garage with first floor storage plus detached solarium outbuildings.

**Resolved** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2014/1016** Mr Robert Bath, 86 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DD.

Site Location: 86 Heol y Llwynau, Trebanos, Pontardawe, Swansea, SA8 4DD.

Proposed Development: Lawful Development certificate for an existing single storey rear conservatory plus the insertion of a roof light to facilitate loft conversion.

**Resolved:** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2014/0889** Mr Stuart Thomas, 13b Rectory Road, Canton, Cardiff, CF5 1QL.

Site Location: Plot between 7 and 10 Compass Row, Pontardawe SA8 4LS.

Proposed Development: One two storey residential dwelling and associated car parking, including car parking area to serve the proposed dwelling at no 7.

**Resolved:** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2014/0798** Mr Andrew Weekes, 45 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3BB.

Site Location: 45 Waun Penlan, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3BB.

Proposed Development: Two side dormer extensions.

**Resolved:** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**2012/1073 East Pit East Revised OCCS, New Road, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Neath SA18 1UP**

**Information provided for development outside the Town Council's area due to the likelihood of increased traffic through the Pontardawe Town Council area during construction.**

Resolved that the Clerk obtain information on the level of additional traffic through Pontardawe during the construction process together with the length of time it is envisaged. She will also request if Pontardawe Town Council will be included in any community remuneration fund.

Reviewed in the meeting:

**P2014/1046** Mr Dane Lacey, 34 Gelliderw, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe, Swansea SA84NB.

Site Location: Land to the rear of Gwrhyd Road, Rhyd y Fro, Pontardawe SA84SS.

Proposed Development: Retention and completion of stable block and hard standing plus means of enclosure and gates.

**Resolved:** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification.

**P2014/1090** Mr Hayton, Land to the rear of 11 Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe, Swansea. SA8 4EG.

Site Location: Land to the rear of 11 Ynysderw Road, Pontardawe, Swansea. SA8 4EG.

Proposed Development: One detached two storey dwelling (Outline with all matters reserved)

**Resolved:** No Objection provided there is neighbourhood notification however Council did have some concerns over parking in the area.

(Councillors Ms S Northcott and A Nicholson declared an interest and took no part in the discussions)

**9757. Clerks Report on the Core Funding Grant and Groundworks (Bridgend /Neath Port Talbot):** The Clerk advised Council that Groundworks (Bridgend/ Neath Port Talbot) had been placed in Administration. Unfortunately the Town Councils 'Boulder Project' although virtually completed was still not finalised.

Council was advised that at present Neath Port Talbot Council were in the process of negotiating with the Welsh Assembly Government to resolve the position for a number of schools and Community and town Councils whose projects were unfinished in their area.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will keep Council informed of the position.

**9758. Clerks Report on ARCH Hall:** Council was advised that there had been an issue with the sewers at Rhyd y Fro overflowing into the Car Park at ARCH. The hall had been closed to the public for a time to allow Welsh Water to attend to the collapsed sewer and to sterilise the car park.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9759. ROSPA Reports for Parc Chwarae Teg, Ynysmeudwy Park and Trebanos Park:** Council was advised that ROSPA Reports had been received for each of the Parks. The rating was 'LOW' for each of the Parks and the groundsman had been informed of any minor maintenance required.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9760. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council/ Town Council Liaison Meeting:** Unfortunately the representatives were unable to attend.

**Resolved** to be noted

**9761. Financial Regulations:** A meeting was required to review the Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment.

**Resolved** that the matter will be deferred to the January Ordinary Meeting.

**9762. Clerks Holiday:** The Clerk requested leave on Christmas Eve and for the period from the Christmas Bank Holiday to after New Year's Day. She stated that no cover would be required. She also request a week's holiday in the early part of 2015 for which cover would be required.

**Resolved** that the Clerks Holiday and Holiday cover requirements be agreed.

**9763. Accounts Schedule 306:**

**Resolved** to accept the schedule 306 totaling £12718.74 in line with Standing Orders.

**9764. Footpath Grant:** The Clerk was advised that Neath Port Talbot had proposed an amended Footpath Scheme. It was suggested that the Town Council provide a 'Service Level Agreement' to the County Borough with a more limited maintenance schedule in return for a lower grant figure.

**Resolved** that the Clerk, Groundsman and Mayor agree the proposed 'Service Level Agreement' due to the tight time scales which will then be ratified in the next full Council Meeting.

**9765. Email re Girl Guiding at Ynysmeudwy Hall:** Council was advised that a Girl Guide group was proposed in addition to Rainbows and Brownies at Ynysmeudwy Hall. The Guide leader offered an open invitation to Council Members to attend on a Monday evening to meet the participating children.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9766. Open Meeting 2015:** It was agreed that a Policy and Resources committee should be arranged to discuss. It was further agreed that Councillor Sue Northcott should attend as she had chaired the meeting in 2014.

**Resolved** that a Policy and Resource Committee be arranged for the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 6.00pm.

**9767. Letter received re Local Development Plan for Neath Port Talbot 2011 - 2026:** Council was provided with details of pre- hearing meeting. It was noted that the meeting was being held in normal work hours which would cause difficulty for working individuals.

**Resolved** that the Clerk advise the inspector of the issue of working hour's meetings.

**9768. Email re St Peters Church Christmas Tree Festival:** It was suggested that as the Mayors Charity is 'MIND' Councillor Sue Northcott should dress a tree on behalf of the Council. It was also agreed that the Clerk would dress the tree for PANTRY as decorations for this theme were already available.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9769. Email from WREN:** Council was advised that the WREN board meeting had been postponed to the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9770. Neath Port Talbot Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation:** Council wished to defer the discussion until the Ordinary meeting in January.

**Resolved** to be noted.

**9771. Email received re Buckingham Palace Garden Party:** It was agreed that the Mayor Councillor Peter Williams and his consort should be put forward.

**Resolved** that Councillor Peter Williams be included in the draw.

**9772. Urgent Road Safety Matters:** Council was advised that an issue with electrical boxes in the area had been addressed in a very efficient and timely manner by the County Borough. A hole in the road outside Trebanos School was also in the process of being addressed. Council was however concerned about children crossing the 'bypass' during lunch breaks when the School Crossing warden was not in attendance.

**Resolved** that the Clerk will contact the County Borough to determine if a more permanent crossing could be considered

**9773. Date and time of next meeting:** The date of the next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at ARCH Hall commencing at 6.45pm.

**Signed .....** **Dated .....**